THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

ONGC's joint venture for assam fields

2728. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC has tied up with Russian Tech., to increase crude production in Assam fields; if so, the details of the action plan;

(b) the expected increase of crude and amount of proposed investment for the purpose; and

(c) the other plans of ONGC to augment crude production in India with the details of investment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) To increase crude oil production in the Assam fields, ONGC has envisaged use of Russian technology for the following:—

(i) side tracking of four wells namely, Lakwa # 225, 300, 412 and Galeki # 106;

(ii) consultancy contract on services for detailed studies and evaluating the non-flowing and low flowing wells.

While a contract has been signed with M/s. Zarubezhneft, a national oil company of Russia, in July 2002 for side tracking of wells, the consultancy contract on services for detailed studies and evaluation of the non-flowing and low flowing wells with it, has not been finalized as of date.

The expected gain from each of the four wells planned for side tracking is about 20 tonnes per day (TDP) of oil. The estimated price for the work of side tracking the 4 wells is about Rs. 23.40 cr.

(c) For enhancing the crude oil and gas production, during the X Five Year Plan period ONGC would be taking the following steps:—

(i) to improve the recovery factor from existing major fields by implementing Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) schemes, ONGC has taken up 15 fields for this purpose at an estimated cost of around Rs. 10,000 crores.

(ii) fast track development of new discoveries in the Offshore. ONGC have taken up 3 offshore projects in this regard at a total cost of Rs. 1725 crores.

(iii) Increasing the reserve base through continuous exploration in various acreages under the company's operation, including the blocks awarded to them under three rounds of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).

Demand of LPG

2729. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a continuous increase in the demand for LPG during the last few years in the country;

(b) if so, the estimated increase in demand during 2002-03 as compared to demand in 1999-2000 together with the details thereof; and

(c) the import of LPG made during the above mentioned years to meet the demand in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The estimated demand of LPG during 2002-03 is 8192 thousand metric tonnes (TMT) as comapred to 6029 TMT, during 1999-2000.